

REMARKS

Claim 16 and 19-25 are pending and under examination. Claims 1-15, 17-18 and 26-29 were previously cancelled, and claims 30-31 are withdrawn. Claims 16 and 19-25 dependent thereon have been finally rejected.

Claim 16 has been amended herein. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested, as it is believed to resolve all outstanding issues, or to place the claims in better conditions for appeal. A Notice of Appeal is being filed in conjunction with this amendment and response.

The Claims Are Fully Enabled in Accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claim 16, and claims 19-25 dependent thereon stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as allegedly not fully enabled by the specification for reasons set forth in the prior Office Action. Applicants respectfully assert that the claim is fully enabled as the skilled artisan would readily be able to practice the full scope of the method now claimed without any undue experimentation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

The Claims Are Sufficiently Definite Under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph

Claim 16 and claims 19-25 dependent thereon stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for failing to distinctly claim the subject matter applicants regard as their invention. In particular, the recitation “one or more enzymes associated with chain shortening of p-coumaric acid to p-hydroxybenzaldehyde having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. NO.:2” was deemed unclear. The claim as amended no longer recites this functional limitation. The claim now clearly recites “an enzyme having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. NO.:2.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing Applicants respectfully assert this is fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and that entry of the present amendment will place all claims in

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condition for allowance. An early and favorable Notice in that regard is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at 215-557-5986.

Respectfully submitted,



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